

WASHINGTON, DC - U.S. Congressman Mike Pence has selected Ben and Debbie Evans, of Alexandria, as "Angels in Adoption" for their outstanding advocacy of adoption issues. The Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute (CCAI), which Congressman Pence has regularly participated in, orchestrates the "Angels in Adoption" program and will honor the Evans, along with more than 190 Angels at an awards ceremony and gala event in Washington, DC on Wednesday, September 30, 2009.

"Family is the bedrock of society and there is no substitute for a nurturing, loving home in giving children an opportunity to succeed in life, and that is precisely what the 'Angels in Adoption' program is all about: recognizing those who have dedicated their lives to enriching and improving the lives of orphans and foster children by providing a family where there is none, both domestically and abroad" Pence said.

Pence continued, **"Ben and Debbie Evans fulfill the very mission and goal of 'Angels in Adoption' and they represent the best of Indiana: their faith, courage and sacrifice in the midst of their tireless advocacy for the 'least of these' is an inspiration, and their personal tale of adoption is deeply moving.**

"I'm delighted that they are being honored for the extraordinary impact they have had, and will continue to have as they fight for a future where family is the reality, not just a dream, for every child," Pence concluded.

BACKGROUND:

The Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute's Angels in Adoption™ Program provides Members of Congress the opportunity to honor an individual or entity from their district that has made an extraordinary contribution on behalf of children in need of homes.

Once selected, Angels in Adoption™ travel to Washington D.C. to participate in three days of events all designed to train them in using their personal experience to affect change on behalf of children in need of homes and to celebrate their hard work and dedication to the issue. Last year's event alone resulted in 124 human interest stories being published in newspapers throughout the nation. These stories serve as inspiration for others to step forward to consider fostering or adopting.

For more information, you can visit the Angels in Adoption Web site: <http://www.angelsinadoption.org>

The **Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute** is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to raising awareness about the millions of children around the world in need of permanent, safe, and loving homes and to eliminating the barriers that hinder these children from realizing their basic right of a family.

For more information, you can visit the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute: <http://www.ccainstitute.org>